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What Happened At Emporia

Stenographic and Newspaper Reports

How Mr. White took back, apologized and promised to retract

[1908.]

From the Steographic Report:

Long: "That is the record. Do you admit you were wrong?"

White: "Absolutely."

Long: "The only thing about this that I regret is that these charges have gone out all over Kansas, read by many that will never see this answer here and by many that will never see this admission of William Allen White's that he was wrong when he made these charges."

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What Happened at Emporia

Senator Long's speech at Emporia on the 10th of June attracted attention all over the entire state, not only because he fully and frankly answered the charges made against him by Mr. William Allen White, but because during that meeting Mr. White openly admitted, when forced to do so by Senator Long, that some of his charges were absolutely untrue. Mr. White promised Senator Long in the presence of the Emporia audience that he would give his retraction the same circulation as he gave his charges, but he has not done so. These same charges are still being distributed by Mr. Bristow, although he knows that White has admitted their untruth and that even the newspapers friendly to his candidacy repudiated the White charges.

The prepared speech of Senator Long, which was necessarily lengthy, has been printed and should be read by every voter. In order to get the full effect of it the reader should understand that Senator Long met and explained every charge in the indictment. The audience, which had not been so friendly at first, realized the unfairness of the attack on him and cheered him enthusiastically. Mr. White, who had taken a seat on the stage, was kept covered with confusion and repeatedly forced to bob up and admit that Long was right. It was a great stage setting for a great speech.

The stenographic report includes the interruptions and confessions of Mr. White and is worth reading as an illustration to go with the prepared speech. Following are extracts from the stenographic report. In his introduction Senator Long said:

"There has been considerable speculation as to why I came to Emporia to open this campaign. Ordinarily possibly I might select some other place, although I know of no other town in which I would have preferred to open the campaign, but as I am to discuss an article written by William Allen White, I conceived the idea that it was best to come to the place in Kansas where he is best known. You know William Allen White as I know him. You know he is the most noted fiction writer in Kansas, and that is true whether he is trying to write facts or fiction."

White Tries to Laugh

When Senator Long took up the charge against his vote on the reorganization of the Northern Pacific railroad in which he had supported the unanimous recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary and the wishes of every Senator and Member of Congress from the states through which the road ran, the fight against the resolutions being lead by Lemuel Quigg of New York, he said:

"And there I was helpless, without White or Bristow to advise me against it—Bristow in the Postoffice Department supporting everything I did, and White here in Emporia doing the same. And here on this proposition you and Bristow are lin-

ing up with Lemuel Quigg of New York.

"You know what a great chaser of Wall Street Champ Clark is. Well, he voted for this. (White laughs.)

"It is all very well for you to treat this in a manner of levity here tonight among the people who know you, but there are people in the state of Kansas who do not know you, and who believe that what you say is the truth. They believe you had the facts before you to make the statement. You cannot deceive the people here who know you, but all people do not know you and they think that when you are writing an article like this you are not writing fiction. I know and these people here know that you write fiction all the time."

White's first admission came on the charge that Long voted for a land grant which took ten million acres from the people and gave it to the Atlantic and Pacific Railroads, Mr. Long answered, and as he finished. White said:

White: "I should think that you are right on this."

Long: "Yes, I am right on this proposition; you are wrong."

White: "Yes, I am wrong."

Long: "And Mr. White admits he is wrong on this proposition."

White: "Absolutely."

Long: "We have reduced the counts in this indictment. The court, in instructing the jury on the 4th of August, will say, do not consider charge No. 3."

White Applauds Long

Senator Long, turning to White, said:

"And why, when you were referring to my Wall Street votes, did you not mention the most conspicuous one of all—my vote on Free Silver?"

White: "Because it was right."

Long: "Right from your standpoint. You thought it was right, but that vote was the one that defeated me for Congress." (Strong applause —White joining in the applause.)

Again turning to White, Mr. Long said:

"I do not know whether you are cheering my vote, or because I was left at home."

White: "I was cheering your vote."

Long: "He says he was cheering my vote. Yes, but that vote was referred to all over the Seventh district as a Wall Street vote. And so, in making the list of Wall Street votes, why did they leave that out? He explains it. He thought I was right on that vote. What he means by Wall Street votes is that they are votes cast differently from what he thinks they ought to be cast. (More applause.) You are getting in a little late. You are getting on to this Populistic procession band wagon a little late. You go back in the old Seventh district and they will tell you there today that the most conspicuous Wall Street vote was this vote of mine cast in favor of the money power and against free silver and against the people."

White's Aid to Long's Election

Referring to White's charge that the railroads elected Long to the Senate in 1903, Senator Long explained the contest of that year. Most of the votes he first received came from his Congressional district, and he was finally elected by the withdrawal of Governor Stanley, and the Stanley support going to Long, after consultation with Governor Stanley and his managers, including William Allen White. Senator Long said if the railroads elected him to the Senate it was done by the supporters of Governor Stanley who abandoned him and one of the instruments through which the work was done was William Allen White. Long, pointing toward White, said:

"And he took that course after I had cast every one of the 16 votes that he has referred to as having

been Wall Street votes. That support of Governor Stanley came to me and made me senator, for it gave me the caucus nomination. And so, if the railroads elected me, here is the principal instrument that did it—(placing hand on White's head). This is what you said after you had turned the trick for the railroads." (Reads article from Gazette endorsing Long, in which White says Long was once appointed state senator by the Governor.)

"You see even in those days Bill was careless with his facts. The idea of the Governor appointing any one senator! Every school child knows that cannot be done under our constitution. But when God gave William Allen White a brain for fiction and imagination He made it a little defective on the facts. And so, while I know that this is an error of facts, you also know that those of us who have been friends of William Allen White have never looked at him for facts.

"This is what William Allen White thought about his handiwork in 1903 after I was elected senator and after I had cast those 16 votes and they were on the record. And I placed side by side the answer to the charge in that article that those 16 votes were cast in the interest of Wall Street; I place side by side the action of William Allen White in helping to make me senator, and this statement from the Emporia Gazette after he had helped to do so. You can take your choice as to whether he was right then and is wrong now or as to whether he was wrong then and right now.

"Another man somewhat closely connected with this campaign—I refer to Mr. Bristow—was in Washington in the Postoffice Department and in close consultation with me during the time these 16 votes were cast, and the difference between Mr. Bristow and Mr. White with reference to my election to the Senate was this, that while Mr. White came in at the eleventh hour, Mr. Bristow was for me from the beginning. He supported me loyally for senator after those votes were cast, and this is what Mr. Bristow said in the Salina Journal of March 5, 1903: (Reads from Salina Journal a strong endorsement of Senator Long.)

Not Bad Yet

When Senator Long began his discussion of the charges against his votes in the Senate, he said:

"The first charge against my record in the Senate was on a vote I cast on March 4, 1906, and so I did not get bad for three years after I was elected."

White: "You are not bad yet."

Long: "I am not bad yet, and I thank you for it."

White Begs Pardon

Senator Long read the charge made that he had voted to keep the coal, oil, and asphalt lands in the hands of the railroads and made his explanation. He said:

"The only trouble with that charge is that it is not true. Just like so much (turning to White) that you put into your writings when you are attempting to write facts, but when you are in reality writing fiction."

White: "I beg your pardon."

Long: **"You beg my pardon.** Yes, you beg my pardon tonight, but you made this charge and there are thousands of people in Kansas who have heard of you that believe this charge because you made it and because they think you are writing facts instead of fiction."

White: "Will you kindly outline what you would like to have published over my signature about that?"

Long: "Yes, when I get through with you. As Mr. Morgan said in his article, here is the document on which you proceeded. (Holds up the document.) You did not have time to investigate these votes as I have investigated them. You took this document, changed it, and signed your name to it."

White: "No, sir."

Long: "That is practically what was done. And now what I want done is that you publish this speech of mine and write your name at the bottom and say, 'I agree with the above.' That is what I want you to

do and that is what I expect you to do before this campaign is over, because your statement on this matter is no more true than many others that you have been guilty of making in this document that was prepared to order."

White Against Roosevelt

After reading the very strong letter President Roosevelt wrote in favor of the ship-subsidy bill in which the President said that Senator Long and the others who voted for this bill rendered a great and patriotic service, and which bill Mr. White and Mr. Bristow denounced, Senator Long said (turning to White):

"When it comes to choosing between your saying that I voted with Wall Street, and President Roosevelt saying that I voted right and did patriotic service, you will pardon me but I will stand with the President. Side by side, good people of Emporia, I place what William Allen White says about my vote on the shipping bill with what his great and good friend, Theodore Roosevelt, says about it. You know that he is a spokesman for the President."

White: "Never."

Long: "I want you to understand that there has been an impression like that going all through this community and all through Kansas."

White: "No, sir. You are mistaken."

Long: "And I am glad to have you refute it tonight. It helps a great deal to understand the exact relation you bear to this, for a great many people here and elsewhere thought that when you spoke you represented the sentiments of the President. I am glad to know that you represent your own sentiments and that he is still able to express his himself."

White Promises Retraction

When Senator Long came to the charge that in the vote on the railroad employers' liability bill he had dodged and hid in the cloak room, he said:

"If I had been guilty of this charge I would resign my seat in the Senate and never ask anything further of the people of Kansas. I am surprised that Mr. White and Mr. Bristow would make this charge. It is the most serious and outrageous one of all, and there is absolutely no foundation for it. (Turning to White) I was not in the cloak room. I was sitting in my seat in the Senate. Why did I not vote? The record shows the reason. It shows that I was present."

White: "I was wrong."

Long: **"You were wrong.** When the call was made to ascertain if there was a quorum, of course I answered to my name. I was there. I was not in the cloak room, but you understand the purpose of a general pair. I had one with Mr. Dubois. When he was present I could vote; when he was absent I could not vote. I finally voted. You say I was dragged in by the scruff of my neck by my conscience and voted for this bill. Here is the record:" (Reads from Record.)

Long: "That is the record. Do you admit you were wrong?"

White: "Absolutely."

Long: "Do you admit that the senator that you helped to make did not flee to the cloak room and did not have to be brought by the scruff of the neck to vote?"

White: "I will say so tomorrow."

Long: "All right. Very well. You will see that that is the easy way to do this and that when my speech is printed in full there shall be at the bottom of it: 'I fully concur in the above. William Allen White.'"

"This charge wounded me more than any other that you made, for in

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